

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jean J. G. Rutten Examiner: Rosalind S. Rollins

Serial No.: 09/934,189 Group Art Unit: 3739

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Title: Method and Apparatus for Imparting Curves in Elongated
Implantable Medical InstrumentsPROPOSED AMENDMENTIn the claims:

1. (Currently Amended) An elongated medical instrument to be advanced through the body comprising:

an instrument body extending between an instrument body proximal end and an instrument body distal end and having an instrument body proximal segment and an instrument body distal segment, the instrument body having an instrument body axis extending axially in the instrument body distal segment and further comprising an elongated pull wire lumen extending through the instrument body proximal segment and instrument body distal segment, the pull wire lumen extending in parallel with and radially offset in a first radial direction from the instrument body distal axis in the instrument body distal segment;

an inelastic pull wire extending through the pull wire lumen from a pull wire proximal attachment with the elongated medical instrument to a pull wire distal attachment with the instrument body distal segment; and

the instrument body proximal segment is formed of an elastic material capable of being stretched axially under axially applied tension applied directly at the instrument body proximal segment, whereby the inelastic pull wire bends in the first radial direction and thereby imparts a curve to the instrument body in the instrument body distal segment; and

proximal tension applying means coupled to the instrument body proximal segment at a proximal site of the instrument body proximal segment and distal